[Translation]

Panaki Power House at Kanpur

3772. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the smoke and ash emitting from the chimneys of Panaki Power House at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has been posing a threat to the lives of the people living in ten kilometer radius of this power house; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No conclusive report of adverse impact on health of the population living near the Panaki Power House at Kanpur, is available. However, the Government are aware of the pollution problems created by the Power House. The Central Pollution Control Board has issued the following directions to the Power House for taking necessary steps to check the pollution problems:—

(i) to ensure proper commissioning and functioning of electrostatic precipitators in order to check emissions of suspended particulate matter.

(ii) to submit a time bound action plan for switching over to the use of beneficiated/blended coal with lower ash content.

(iii) to make use of fly ash.

(iv) to install and ensure proper functioning of opacity meters.

The pollution control programme is being monitored by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board and the Central Pollution Control Board.

[English]

Impact of Global Merger

3773. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have studied impact of the global merger and acquisition fever on the Indian pharmaceutical industry in the absence of product patents;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the estimated number of products being patented by 2000; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the low-cost manufacturing of pharmaceutical products and research and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No such study has been conducted by the Government so far.

(b) Number of Products patented by the year 2000 A.D. would depend on outcome of R/D efforts.

(c) Various incentives have been provided to give impetus to research and development which has assumed greater importance in view of world trade scenario. Challenges faced, therefore, include sustaining indigenous industry through vigorous R&D efforts and making it internationally cost effective in bulk production.

Financial support for R&D activities under schemes of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, collaborative research taken up by various laboratories of the CSIR and setting up of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research to produce R&D oriented scientists are some of the steps which have been taken to encourage R&D.

Implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System

3774. SHRI VIJAY PATEL:
DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have already announced reduction in the rates of rice and wheat to be supplied in their respective States; and

(b) if so, the manner in which now the Targeted Public Distribution System scheme will be implemented in such States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No State Government has so far fixed the end consumer price of rice and wheat for the Targeted PDS, which will be done by them after issue of formal notification fixing the Central Issue Prices by the Government of India.

(b) Hon'ble Prime Minister has made a statement on the introduction of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the Lok Sabha on 24.2.1997 and detailed guidelines indicating the manner in which the Targeted PDS will be implemented, issued in this regard, have also been laid on the table of the House. As per the guidelines, the State Governments/UT Administrations are required to identify the beneficiaries living Below Poverty Line, based on the estimates arrived at by the Planning Commission for the Year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of "Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have accordingly been asked to identify the beneficiaries below the poverty line, issue special ration cards to them and make all arrangements for delivery of foodgrains to the beneficiaries in a satisfactory and transparent manner. As soon as a State/UT completes this exercise it can start deriving the benefits under the Targeted Public Distribution System. The Scheme of Targeted PDS will, however, become effective throughout the country from 1st June, 1997.

Livestock Feed Industry

3775. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Stringent controls hinder growth of livestock feed industry" appearing in the 'Economic Times', dated February 24, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the details of fresh policy measures taken/under consideration for the speedy growth of livestock feed industry in terms of growth perceptions for the 9th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes. Sir

(b) and (c) Some important steps initiated by the Government for promoting the growth of livestock feed industry include:

(i) Poultry feed manufacture (except in pellet form), which has so far been reserved for the small sector, is being dereserved.

(ii) Preparations of a kind used in animal feeding, falling under Chapter No. 23 of Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 continue to be fully exempted from excise duty.

(iii) Import of feed ingredients like amino acids attract concessional customs duty.

[Translation]

Triple Super Phosphate

3776. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States being supplied triple super phosphate fertilizer;

(b) the total quantity supplied to each of these States;

(c) the total amount given as subsidy to each of the States on the same; and

(d) the names of the institutions or the organisations through which it has been supplied to the States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Triple Super Phosphate is not produced in the country and not supplied to any State.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Finance Development Corporations

3777. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted the National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation and National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the guidelines along with wowers jurisdiction and life etc. of these corporations; and

(c) the time by which both the corporations will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes sir.

(i) The National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has been set up as Company not for profit under Section 25 of Companies Act, 1956, w.e.f. 24th January, 1997, with its Headquarters at Faridabad (Haryana).

(ii) The National Safai Karamchari Finance Development Corporation has been incorporated on 24th January, 1997, as a Company not for profit under Section 25 of Companies Act, 1956, with its Registered office at Delhi.

(b) A copy of the guidelines/objectives etc. of these Corporations is attached as statements-I and II, respectively.

2. The jurisdiction of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation extends to handicapped individuals or groups of handicapped individuals by Way of loans and advances for economically and financially viable schemes and projects. It shall assist in upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills of handicapped persons for efficient management of production units and set up infrastructural activities for rehabilitation/upliftment of handicapped persons.